

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Claims 1-30 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-30 stand rejected. Applicant amends Claim 12 and respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,016,875 issued to Steele et al. ("*Steele*"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for authenticating and authorizing a user of an electronic device in communication with a network. The method includes receiving a user request from a user of an electronic device in communication with a network. Information related to the user is searched for in a repository of user information. The search is based at least partially on the user request and a login identity supplied by the user. Upon locating the information of the user, a unique universal user identifier representing the user is retrieved from the repository of user information. At least the unique universal user identifier is stored in a data packet and sent to a storage device such that the data packet is transmittable to electronic devices in communication with the network when the user attempts to access a resource within the network. Based at least partially on the unique universal user identifier, authorization data associated with the user is retrieved from the resource.

The Office Action rejects Claim 1 and contends that each of the limitations of Claim 1 is disclosed by *Steele*. However, the portions of *Steele* cited by the Office Action fail to teach, disclose, or suggest "retrieving, from the repository of user information, a unique universal user identifier representing said user upon locating said information of said user." Rather, *Steele* discloses "a ticket generated by the host server 108 [that] may be a 'Globally Unique Identifier' ('GUID') ... compris[ing] a unique number that is computed by adding the time and date to a network adapter's internal serial number, or by any other suitable technique." See *Steele*, Column 10, lines 20-24. Accordingly, the portions of *Steele* cited by the Office Action do not disclose, teach, or suggest retrieving, from the repository of user information, a unique universal user identifier representing the user upon locating the information of the user.

The GUID of *Steele* is generated by the host server 108 as a “ticket” which “refers to a temporary authorization--for at least partial access to a consumer’s account information.” *See Steele*, Column 9, lines 58-60. Moreover, the GUID does not represent the user, but instead is “computed by adding the time and date to a network adapter’s internal serial number” *See Steele*, Column 10, lines 19-24. Thus, *Steele* does not disclose, teach or suggest retrieving, from a repository of user information a unique universal user identifier representing said user, as required by Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully contends that *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each of the limitations of Claim 1 and requests that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-11 each depend from Claim 1 and incorporate all the limitations thereof. Therefore, Claims 2-11 are each patentably distinguishable from *Steele* for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

Similar to Claim 1, Claims 12, 18, 23, and 28 each include limitations generally directed to a unique universal user identifier representing the user. For example, amended Claim 12 recites “a unique universal user identifier corresponding to a user,” and Claim 18 recites “each of said unique universal user identifiers being unique to a user.” Likewise, Claim 23 recites “each unique universal user identifier being unique to a user,” and Claim 28 recites “a unique universal user identifier representing said user.” Accordingly, Applicant contends that Claims 12, 18, 23, and 28 are each patentably distinguishable from *Steele* for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

Claims 13-17, 19-22, 24-27, and 29-30 each depend from Claims 12, 18, 23, and 28 respectively and incorporate all the respective limitations thereof. Therefore, Applicant respectfully contends that claims 13-17, 19-22, 24-27, and 29-30 are each patentably distinguishable from *Steele* for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to their respective base claims.

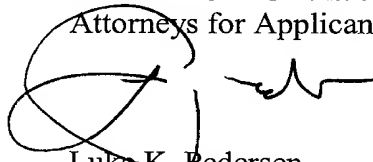
Conclusions

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicant believes no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **02-0384** of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

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